ARTICLES

OF

Viſitation & Enquiry

EXHIBITED

To the Miniſters, Church-Wardens, and Sidemen of every Pariſh,

IN THE

Firſt Epiſcopal Viſitation

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

HENRY,

By Divine Permiſſion,

Lord Biſhop of *LONDON*.

LONDON,

Printed by *Benj. Motte*. 1706.

The Tenour of the Oath to be Adminiſtred to the Church-Wardens and Side-men of every Pariſh.

YOU ſhall Swear Truly and Faithfully to execute the Office of a Church-Warden within your Pariſh, and according to the beſt of your Skill and Knowledge, Preſent ſuch Things and Perſons, as you know to be preſentable by the Laws Eccleſiaſtical of this Realm. So help you God and the Contents of this Book.

ARTICLES
OF
Viſitation and Enquiry
IN THE
DIOCESE of LONDON.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

1. IS your Church or Chappel, with the Chancel, in good repair, and decently kept, as becomes the Houſe of GOD?

2. Is the Furniture of your Church or Chappel, as Bells, Communion-Plate and Cloths, Miniſters Surplice, Pulpit Cloth, Herſe Cloth, with other Ornaments duly provided, and look'd after?

3. Have you a fair Bible, Book of Common-Prayer, Book of Homilies, and Canons; a Regiſter of Births, Burials and Marriages; and is the ſaid Regiſter duly kept, and the Tranſcript return'd every Year into the Biſhop's Regiſtry? Have you alſo a Regiſtry of ſuch Strangers as are admitted to Preach; and a Book for the entry of the Church-Wardens Accounts? And are the ſaid Books carefully look'd to, and made uſe of?

The Tenour of the Oath to be Adminiſtred to the Church-Wardens and Side-men of every Pariſh.

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TIT. II.

Concerning the Church yard, the Houses, Glebes, and Tithes belonging to the Church.

1. IS your Church-yard sufficiently fenced and preserved from Annoyance, Encroachments and Waste?

2. Is the Dwelling-House, and all the Out-houses of your Parson, Vicar or Curate, kept in good and sufficient Repair; and does he from time to time, and as there is occasion, take care to repair what is amiss? If they want Repairs, what part of the Houses or Out-houses are out of repair, and how long have they been so, and what may it cost to repair them? Are the Glebe-Lands, Orchards and Gardens, and other Easements belonging to them, preserv'd from being Imbezzel'd or Indamag'd?

3. Has there been any Wood or Timber cut down upon the Glebe or Church-yard, and by whom and when, and to what Uses imploy'd?

4. And have you a perfect Terrier of such Glebe Lands, Orchards, &c. and also of Pensions, Tithes, and Compositions as belong unto them?

TIT. III.

Concerning Ministers.

1. HAve you a Parson, Vicar or Curate legally settled among you?

2 Is he constantly resident, or how long, and on what occasion is he absent? Has he a Curate? How is he licensed, and how maintained? During his absence, what care is taken for Hospitality and Charity to the Poor?

3. Does

3. Does your Parson, Vicar or Curate, constantly, reverently and regularly officiate on the Lord's-days, Holy-days and Eves of them; as also read the Litany upon all *Wednesdays* and *Fridays* weekly; and observe Rogation and Ember-days according to the Order of the Church; and so perform all Offices, without Addition or Diminution?

4. Does your Minister diligently instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church-Catechism? And does he endeavour to reclaim all Profane Persons, Papists and Sectaries; and press the great Duties of true Faith, Piety, Justice, Temperance, Charity, Allegiance and Conformity? And is he diligent in visiting the Sick, and satisfying the Doubts of troubled Consciences? Lastly, is he Peaceable, Sober and exemplary in his Conversation, and Grave in his Demeanour, Company, Hair and Apparel?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners:

1. ARE there in your Parish any Persons known or reputed to be Jews, Hereticks, Papists or Schismaticks, and are they studious to pervert the Orthodox; or insolent towards them for doing their Duty?

2. If there be any Assemblies for Religious Worship in your Parish, besides the Parish-Church or Chappel; have the Places of such Meetings been certified according to the Statute? Do any upon that Pretence, and who? wholly abstain on *Sundays* from coming to any publick place where there are Prayers or Sermons, but spend their time in Ale houses or Houshold-Affairs?

3. Are any of your Parish known or suspected to be guilty of Incest, Adultery, Fornication, or any other enormous Crimes? Do any profane the Lord's day, or other great Holy-days, or

the Name of God, or are irreverent in the Church, or neglect the respective Duties incumbent on them in reference to the Sacraments of Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, and other Rites; as of Catechising, Confirmation, Marriage, Thanksgiving after Child-birth, Burial of the Dead, or the Censures of the Church?

4. Are the Wills and Testaments of the Dead in your Parish, or the Administration of their Goods duly taken out and executed? Have any Lands, Legacies, or Charitable Gifts bestow'd on your Parish, or any other good Uses, been embezzl'd, or unduly bestowed? Has any Money belonging to the Fabrick of your Church, or other charitable Purposes, been employed to other uses?

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

HAve you belonging to your Parish or Chappelry a sufficient Clerk or Sexton, and does he faithfully and diligently execute his Office?

TIT. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, Schoolmasters, Physicians, Chirurgeons and Midwives.

1. IS there in your Parish any Hospital, Alms-house, or Free School? How are they endow'd, order'd and govern'd? Does any one keep School without Licence from the Bishop; or if Licensed, neglect to teach the Youth committed to him the Catechism of the Church, and to bring them to the Service of the Church?

2. Does any in your Parish practise Physick or Chirurgery, or do the Office of a Midwife, without Approbation and Licence from the Ordinary?

TIT. VII.
Concerning Ecclesiastical Officers.

1. HAve any Officers that exercise Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction in this Diocese, taken or exacted any excessive Fees for any Cause or Act, or any Bribe, or Reward for the Concealment or Impunity of Delinquents; or sped any Act privately, and not in the presence of a Publick Notary?

2. Is the number of the Apparitors in this Diocese excessive; have they summon'd any person unlawfully, given in false Returns, or taken Reward for Concealments, or threatned Prosecutions where they had no Reward, or otherwise misbehaved themselves in their Office.

Advertisements.

I. THE Minister of every Parish may join in Presentment with the Church-Wardens and Side-men, and if they fail to present, the Ministers themselves (who have the highest Obligations to endeavour the suppressing of Impiety and Disorder) may and ought to do it.

II. The Ministers are to take notice, that the Bishop at his Visitation will be ready to confirm the Youth that shall be fitted and brought before him; and therefore are desired, by diligent Catechizing, to prepare those under their Charge, and to bring them, at the time appointed, unto the Bishop.

III. No Monument is to be erected or Vault to be made in any Church, without the Approbation of the Ordinary.

FINIS.

TIT. VII.

Concerning Ecclesiastical Officers.

HAve any Officers that exercise Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction in this Diocese, taken or exacted any excessive Fee for any Cause or Suit, or any Proxy, or Reward for the concealment or Impunity of Delinquents; or taxed any Act privately, and not in the presence of a Public Notary?

2. Is the number of the Apparitors in this Diocese excessive? have they demanded any portion unlawfully given for false Returns, or taken Reward for Concealments, or protracted Prosecutions where they had no Reward, or otherwise misbehaved themselves in their Office?

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